

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-04 /085 W

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R 051622Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5724

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 00048

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU,XT, BE

SUBJECT: SENATE PASSES GOVERNMENT BUDGET INCLUDING UNIVERSITY
AUSTERITY PROGRAM WITHOUT AMENDMENT

REF: STATE 11220,STATE 11295,

1. ON JANUARY 3 BELGIAN SENATE ADOPTED 1976 BUDGET AND ACCOMPANYING
PROGRAM LAW BY VOTE OF 99 TO 61 (GOVERNMENT PARTIES VERSUS
OPPOSITION). ALL AMENDMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE INSPIRED BY ORGANI-
ZED LABOR, WERE REJECTED.

2. LABOR MOVEMENT'S ONE HOUR GENERAL STRIKE DECEMBER 23 PRO-
TESTING TWO ASPECTS OF PROGRAM LAW WAS FAIRLY EFFECTIVE, PARTI-
CULARLY IN PUBLIC SECTOR. NEVERTHELESS GOVERNMENT MAINTAINED
ITS POSITION ON SOCIAL ALLOCANCES AND SUBSIDY TO SOCIAL SECURITY
SYSTEM.

IT DID MEET ONE OF UNIONS DEMANDS BY NOT INCREASING DEDUCTIBLE
FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES. THIS ACTION WAS BY ROYAL DECREE AND DID
NOT REQUIRE AMENDMENT OF PROGRAM LAW ITSELF. SO FAR THERE IS
NO REACTION FROM TRADE UNIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE OF THIS
CONTROVERSIAL BILL.

3. NEXT PARLIAMENTARY TEST FOR TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT WILL COME
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LATER THIS MONTH WHEN HOUSE DEBATES MODIFIED ECONOMIC

RECOVERY PROGRAM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT BUDGET
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Film Number: D760002-1092
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 11220
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Review Comment: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: SEDU, XT, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
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